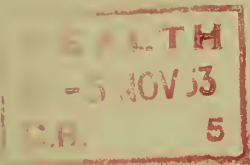


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BUCKLOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1952.

BUCKLOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman - Mr. J. G. Wainwright, J.P.

Vice Chairman - Mr. A. Pennington.

Members of the Public Health Committee.

The Committee comprises the whole Council.

Chairman - Mr. A. Pennington.

Vice Chairman - Mr. W. J. Johnson.

Mr. W. Baldwin	Mr. L. A. Harrison
Mr. C. L. S. Cornwall-Legh, J.P.	Mr. T. Hickson
Mr. J. Crimes	Mr. S. Morton, J.P.
Mr. T. Croft	Mr. J. Norbury
Mr. A. Dale	Mr. F. J. Pratt
Mr. T. Davies	Mr. R. C. Richardson
Mr. W. Dean	Mr. J. G. Wainwright, J.P.
Mr. A. Done	Mr. E. Warburton
Mr. J. Ford	Mr. T. S. Wright.

Staff of the Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health

Donald Longbottom, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector

H. G. Milburn, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., Cert. Insp. of Meat and other Foods.
(Appointed August, 1952).

John P. Korshaw, C.S.I.
(Resigned May, 1952).

Additional Sanitary Inspector

R. Egan, Cert.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. of Meat and other Foods.
(Appointed April, 1952).

P. Darbyshire, M.S.I.A.,
(Resigned February, 1952).

Clerk-Typist

Miss B. A. Clarko,

BUCKLOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Dunham Mount,

Dunham Road,

ALTRINCHAM.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my report for the year 1952.

Both the birth rate and death rate compare favourably with the rates for England and Wales as a whole and are lower than for 1951.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified was approximately half the number notified during each of the past five years.

It is pleasing to record that steps have been taken under the Public Health Act, 1936, in an attempt to place control over the haphazard development of movable dwellings which has taken place at Pickmore during the past thirty years, and which was aggravated during the late war. More detailed reference to this matter is made in the body of the report.

I would like to express my thanks to the members of the Health Committee for their interest in the department during the year, and to the staff of the department for their co-operation at all times.

I am, Gentlemen

Your obedient servant

Donald Longbottom,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of district in acres.	46,103.
Registrar General's estimate of Civilian population	11,570.
Population (1951 Census)	11,170.
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books	3,363.
Rateable Value	£78,052.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£325.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births

	M.	F.	Total.
Live Births (legitimate)	79	87	166
(illegitimate)	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>
	<u>83</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>174</u>
Still Births (legitimate)	2	1	3
(illegitimate)	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>

The total live births show a decrease of 6 over the figure for 1951, and the live birth rate per 1,000 population has fallen to 16.5 as compared with 17.2 in 1951. The birth rate for England and Wales as a whole is 15.3

This is the standardised birth rate adjusted so as to allow for the age and sex composition of the population using the Registrar General's comparability factor of 1.10.

The still birth rate per 1,000 population is 0.34 compared with 0.35 for England and Wales as a whole.

Deaths

	M.	F.	Total.
Deaths from all causes	61	55	116

Death rate per 1,000 home population - 9.92.

This again is the standardised death rate using the Registrar General's comparability factor of 0.99.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - 16 (Males 9, Females 7).

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) - 1 (Female).

Deaths from Measles (all ages) - 1 (Female).

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth, and abortion - nil.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>

The Death Rate of infants under 1 year (per 1,000 live births) is 40.2. compared with 27.6. for England and Wales. This is considerably higher than in 1951 when the rate was 22.2.

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the cases of infectious disease, other than Tuberculosis, notified during the year and classified in age groups.

Notifiable Disease	All Ages	Under 1 Year	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 & Over
Scarlet Fever	10	-	2	8	-	-	-	-
Measles	39	-	8	31	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
TOTAL:	55	-	10	43	-	1	-	1

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The following table shows comparisons for the last five years
(excluding members of H.M. Forces):-

Notifiable Disease	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Diphtheria	2	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	10	134	57	7	10
Pneumonia	6	6	4	1	1
Measles	144	56	10	94	39
Whooping Cough	29	3	18	22	3
Erysipelas	1	1	-	1	2
TOTAL:	192	200	89	125	55

TUBERCULOSIS.

1. No. of new cases notified during the year:-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	<u>Total</u>
Males	3	1	4
Females	3	-	3
	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>

2. No. of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1952.

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Males	20	11	31
Females	<u>19</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>25</u>
	<u>39</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>56</u>

This figure shows a reduction of 9 on the number of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1951. There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year.

The following table is included to show how the vital statistics compare with those during the past 21 years.

	Population	No. of live Births Per year	No. of Deaths Per year	No. of Deaths of Infants Under 1 year	No. of cases of Maternal Mortality per year
Average for 1931 to 1935	23,354	275.2.	236.0.	16.2.	0.8.
Average for 1936 to 1940	9,304	150.7	115.2.	7.2.	1.5.
Average for 1941 to 1945	10,006	146.0.	102.6.	4.8.	0.2.
Average for 1946 to 1950	10,614	161.6.	112.2.	5.2.	0.6.
1951	11,550	180.0.	142.0.	4.0.	-
1952	11,570	174.0	116.0.	7.0.	-

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR
1952, AND CAUSES.

Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory Tuberculosis	-	-	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	1	1
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	1	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, lung and bronchus	5	2	7
Malignant Neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	1	4
Leukemia, leukemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	5	13
Coronary disease, angina	10	3	13
Hypertension with Heart disease	1	-	1
Other heart diseases	11	15	26
Other circulatory diseases	4	5	9
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Bronchitis	5	2	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	2	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	8	13
Motor vehicle accidents	3	1	4
All other accidents	2	-	2
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	<u>61</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>116</u>

National Health Act Services, and services
provided by the Cheshire County Council.

A. Services provided in accordance with the requirements
of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

I. Hospital Services.

Controlling Body - Manchester Regional Hospital Board.
Local Hospitals - Administered by North West and Mid Cheshire Hospital
Management Committee.
Secretary - Mr. M. Owen, Administrative Offices,
Altrincham Maternity Home, Sinderland Road.

Hospitals serving this area:-

General Acute Cases - Cottage Hospital, Knutsford.
Altrincham General Hospital
Denzell Convalescent Hospital, Bowdon.
General Chronic Cases - Cranford Lodge, Knutsford.

Maternity Hospitals - Altrincham Maternity Hospital, Sinderland Road.
Southfields, Langham Road, Bowdon.
West Park Hospital, Macclesfield.
Cranford Lodge Hospital, Knutsford.

Ear, Nose, and Throat - St. Anne's Home, Woodville Road, Altrincham.
Infectious Diseases - Monsall Hospital, Newton Heath, Manchester.
Smallpox - Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital, Nr. Bury, Lancs.

A large number of cases from Bucklow are treated in the Manchester
Hospitals.

II. General Practitioner and General Dental Services.

Controlling Body - National Health Service Executive Council for Cheshire.
Clerk - Mr. F. Hayter, 28 Nicholas Street, Chester.

III. Services of Local Health Authority - Cheshire County Council.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Ambulance Service. |) | |
| 2. Immunisation and Vaccination. |) | Altrincham Divisional Health Committee. |
| 3. Care and After Care. |) | |
| 4. Home Help Service |) | |
| 5. Maternity and Child Welfare |) | |
| 6. Domiciliary Midwifery and District Nursing. |) | County |
| 7. Dental Service - Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Pre-School children |) | Council Health |
| 8. Mental Health Service - Duly Authorised Officer for Mental Health- |) | Committee |
| Mr. Dixon, 18 Stanley Road, Knutsford. |) | |

The Divisional Health Committee area covers Hale U.D.C., Bowdon U.D.C.,
Altrincham M.B., Knutsford U.D.C., and Bucklow R.D.C., and includes members
of those Authorities, members of the County Council, and Co-opted Members.

Divisional Medical Officer - D. Longbottom, Mountlands, The Mount,
Altrincham (Altrincham 1733).

B. Other Services by other Committees of Cheshire County Council.

1. Education Committee - School Health Service, including School Dental Service.
2. Welfare Committee - Old persons, care and attention - homeless, handicapped
persons, provision for residential accommodation, etc.,
County Welfare Officer - Mr. Evans, Hough Green, Chester.
3. Children's Committee - Provides for the care of Deprived Children - i.e.,
children not under parental care.
Children's Officer for this area - Miss Kirby, The Council Offices, Buxton Road,
Knutsford.

The following section of the report has largely been compiled by the Sanitary Inspectors to whose work it relates. The appointment of new Sanitary Inspectors during the year with the unavoidable periods when the department was understaffed, and when the newly appointed officers were making themselves familiar with the work of the department and with the district resulted in a reduction in the amount of routine inspection work carried out.

VISITS.

The following table shows the visits made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year:-

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Initial Visits</u>	<u>Routine or Re-visits</u>
Housing defects	36	10
Council houses	81	3
Overcrowding	5	1
Movable dwellings	52	73
Factories	6	-
Catering premises	5	2
Dairies and Dairyman	28	2
Food inspection	2	-
Ice Cream premises	2	-
Infectious disease	10	-
Disinfection	2	-
Rodent Control	22	3
Drainage nuisances	38	70
Drain tests	13	9
Water Supplies and Samples	3	2
Refuse nuisances	10	16
Refuse collection; tips	17	95
Defective Dustbins and pail closets	19	-
Pail closet collection	4	6
Cesspool emptying	8	6
Sewage disposal	7	1
Building licences	7	1
Miscellaneous	<u>31</u>	<u>48</u>
	<u>408</u>	<u>348</u>

HOUSING.

Repairs.

35 complaints with regard to defective housing conditions were investigated, and informal notices served on the Owners in every case. With a few exceptions repairs were effected within a comparatively short time. The low rents of many rent-controlled houses resulted in difficulties in enforcing the repair sections of the Housing Act, 1936.

Demolition and Closure.

27 houses were represented to the Council as being incapable of being rendered fit at reasonable expense. Of these 23 were movable dwellings at Pickmore, and the action with regard to 19 of these was taken after the end of the year.

Undertakings not to use them for human habitation were accepted from the owners of 5 houses, and demolition orders were made in respect of 3 bungalow dwellings at Pickmore.

Overcrowding.

A number of overcrowding cases were reported during the year and these received special consideration by the Housing Tenancy Committee when allocating the tenancies of Council Houses.

New Housing.

During the year 74 new Council houses were completed and let as follows:-

Partington - 14	Aston-by-Budworth - 16
Mobborley - 18	Ollerton - 16
Pickmore - 10	

8 private enterprise houses were completed.

Letting of Houses.

The Sanitary Inspector attends meetings of the Housing Tenancy Committee, and this is considered to be of great value as it enables the Committee to receive reports on really badly housed or overcrowded families. At the same time, the Committee's policy of allocating tenancies some time before houses are ready for letting enables any appropriate action to be initiated in respect of unfit houses being vacated.

Movable Dwellings.

Perhaps the most serious problem confronting the Council is that resulting from the very large number of movable dwellings in the district. They are stationed both singly and in small groups on farm land and in large groups on complete fields.

At the start of the year certain individual caravans were licensed under the Public Health Act, 1936, but no sites were licensed. By the end of the year a good start had been made on licensing, and at 31st December, 30 individual caravans and 7 sites (for a total of 166 caravans) were licensed.

The problem is exacerbated by the large number of caravans and bungalows which are only occupied at weekends, or for odd weeks during the Summer, and whose owners leave them on the site all the year round.

The area around Pickmore Lake in the southern part of the district presented particular difficulties, since here several hundred dwellings, some of a permanent character, have been erected over a number of years. Many are occupied all the year round.

The Council appointed a special Committee to consider this matter and a definite policy was adopted.

The aims are to reduce the number of dwellings, to remove all converted buses, vans, and pantechnicons, and to improve the sanitary conditions. Each plot of land on which movable dwellings are stationed is to be licensed in turn, and three sites were licensed in December. The conditions attached to the licences aim at fulfilling the above policy, while at the same time, action under the demolition sections of the Housing Act, 1936, was initiated with regard to some of the very worst structures.

The appalling condition of some of the structures, many of which are little more than shacks, and the congestion on the fields, coupled with the complete absence of drainage arrangements presents a very serious public health problem which will take some years to solve, and it is pleasing to report that a start has been made on tackling it.

The action detailed above was taken entirely under the Public Health Act, 1936, and it would seem that the Council might, in addition, give consideration to their powers under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, which can provide very useful control of movable dwellings.

WATER SUPPLY.

A mains water supply is provided in every parish, with the exception of Tatton, by the Council and other authorities. The statutory undertakers for the various parishes are as follows:-

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Manchester Corporation | - Dunham Massey, Carrington, Partington Ringway. |
| Stockport Corporation | - Mobberley, Marthall. |
| Lymm Urban District Council | - Warburton. |
| Bucklow Rural District Council | - (a) Agdon, Ashloy, Aston-by-Budworth, Boxton, Bollington, High Legh, Mero, Millington, Pickmere, Rostherne, Tabley Inferior, Tabley Superior,
- bulk supply from Manchester Corporation. |
| | (b) Ollerton, Peover Superior, Peover Inferior, Toft,
- bulk supply from Stockport Corporation. |
| | (c) Plumley
- bulk supply from the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board. |

The supply has been adequate and satisfactory in all parishes although, some difficulty was experienced at Ollerton owing to inadequate pressure at peak consumption hours. The Council have a scheme to obviate this which will follow the provision of a new main through Marthall by the Stockport Corporation.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

A number of houses were provided with new drainage arrangements during the year. Several complaints with regard to faulty septic tanks were investigated, and in every case the trouble arose due to neglect of the tank with consequent dispersal of sludge into the filter causing choking.

The absence of any means of emptying septic tanks has no doubt been the cause of this neglect, and in December the Council decided to purchase a cess-pool emptying machine, although this is to be used primarily for pail closet collection.

A considerable number of houses have drains communicating directly with ditches and brooks, and serious nuisance due to contamination of the water-

courses arises. Appropriate action was taken wherever such nuisances were noted.

The contractors commenced work on the new sewerage scheme for the village of Partington, and other schemes for Mobberley, Peover Superior and High Logh are under consideration.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse and night-soil collection is carried out by the department throughout most of the district, collections being on a weekly basis.

Three 7-cubic yard Ford refuse freighters and one open Austin truck were used, night-soil being carried in drums in the vehicles. All the vehicles proved extremely costly to maintain and the freighters quite unsuited to the work, being of too small a carrying capacity, and having cabs designed to seat only one labourer in which two or even three men have to travel. The system of carrying night soil in open drums in the back of vehicles without watertight bodies is both primitive and offensive, while dumping of this material with refuse is a needless waste of potential fertiliser. The Council decided in December to order a cesspool emptying machine adapted for night-soil collection which will vastly improve the service.

Refuse is tipped at several points conveniently sited in the district, but these tips got badly out of control owing to shortage of labour during the summer months.

A small amount of waste paper was salvaged and baled, but extreme difficulty was experienced in disposing of this, and collections were reduced to almost nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

Milk Distributors.

Much of the designated milk retailed in the district is distributed by dairy firms operating from surrounding towns. Only two producers within the district retail designated raw milk, although there are a considerable number of producer/retailers of non-designated milks.

Two persons in the district are known to be distributors only, and their dairy premises were registered.

During the year 7 distributors of milk were registered and the following licences to use special designations were issued:-

1. Pastourised Milk -	3 Supplementary Licences
2. Sterilised Milk -	3 Supplementary Licences
3. Tuberculin Tested Milk -	1 Dealers Licence 3 Supplementary Licences
4. Accredited Milk -	1 Dealers Licence

Tuberculous Milk.

During the year notification was received from the County Medical Officer of Health that positive biological tests for Tuberculosis had been obtained in 21 cases where milk obtained from producers in the district had been sampled for this purpose. Owing to the shortage of guinea-pigs many samples had to be mixed and the above figure related to samples taken from 34 producers.

Two samples of milk produced in the district taken by adjoining authorities from distributors proved to be infected with Tubercle bacilli, and all the milk sold by these distributors was diverted for heat treatment until notification was received that the infected animals had been removed from the herds concerned. In each case compensation was paid by the Council.

Ice Cream.

Only one manufacturer of Ice Cream has premises within the district and he uses a complete cold-mix process. The premises were kept in a satisfactory condition.

One shop was registered for the retail sale of Ice Cream during the year.

Meat and other Foods.

No slaughterhouse within the district is used for the slaughter of animals for sale and all meat is distributed from outside depots.

The following foodstuffs were condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption:-

1 x 2 lb; 3 x 8 lbs and 2 x 12 lbs cans Ham.
6 plucked Turkeys.

Food Premises.

Inspections were made of certain premises where food is sold or prepared for sale, but it was not possible to devote as much time to this work as is desirable.

Food Poisoning.

No cases of Food Poisoning were notified during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS.

One public swimming bath is situated in the district. This is an open air bath, and is only used during the Summer months. As a result of recommendations made, certain improvements were effected during the year and bacteriological tests on the water proved satisfactory. The Council have byelaws in force governing such premises.

FACTORIES.

There are 41 factories in the district, all but nine being factories with power. Apart from two large concerns and a Gas Works the factories are all small, and include garages, bakeries, smithies, and joiner shops, etc.

Six inspections were made during the year, but no formal notices were served.

RODENT CONTROL.

At the start of the year a rodent operator was engaged for full time work. He is provided with a van and is directly responsible to the Sanitary Inspector.

The following are the details of the work carried out during the year:-

No. of premises inspected	270.
No. of premises infested with rats	87.
No. of premises infested with mice	5.
No. of treatments carried out	81.

In addition test-baiting was carried out on 5 sewer systems and, following positive takes, 4 of these were treated for rats.

BUILDING CONTROL.

During the year 13 licences were issued for repairs and maintenance to houses. Licences for new houses and for work involving structural alterations for which byelaw approval is required are issued by the Engineer and Surveyor.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

One pet shop was licensed under this Act. Tropical fish and birds are the principal pets sold.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

11 licences to slaughter or stun animals in a slaughterhouse or knackors yard were issued during the year.
